

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a priming erasure pulse P_{pre} is applied, weak discharge occurs between a scanning electrode and a sustaining electrode, whereas between the scanning electrode and a data electrode, opposed discharge will not occur or, if any, may occur extremely faintly, and wall charge stuck to the scanning and sustaining electrodes, therefore, is decreased in amount to such an extent that erroneous discharge may not occur in the following address period T_a , so that the data electrode has positive-polarity wall charge left unreduced thereon or has a relatively large amount of wall charge left as stuck thereto, as a result, a sufficient level of write-in discharge can be generated even with a low value of the data voltage V_d .